

Eriko's List of Things to Do

Good morning, Sasebo. Eriko-no-show he yokoso! Let's see what's going on beyond the cho!

Flea Market:

Dragon Markets

Saturday, 17 and Sunday, 18 February 1000-1600

Saturday, 3 and Sunday, 4 March 1000-1600

Hirado Park in Hirado Island

Winter is almost over. Now it's flea market season! When you go to see the Hirado Castle, stop by the market, too. The Hina Doll Festival is held from 13 February through 13 March there also. This is for your information.

Events:

Hirado Hirame (Flatfish, Flounder) Taisai (Big Festival)

Till Sunday, 8 April

Hotels and Restaurants in Hirado City

It's only in winter that you can enjoy the delicious local fish, Hirame (flounders) at this reasonable cost. You can find very unique dishes such as Flounder Pizzas. Don't miss it.

99 Islands Events

Hakken (Discovery), Taiken (Experience), Suizoku-kan (Aquarium)

Saturdays, 9 & 23 February 1400-1600

Saturdays, 9 & 23 March 1400-1600

Saturdays, 13 & 27 April 1400-1600

Max # of students: 40 (Sign up for the activity from 1330-1400 on the day you take the tour) You can experience the work of the aquarium keepers.

99 Island Oyster Festival

Oyster Festival

Saturday, 10 through Sunday, 25 February 1000-1600

Kashimae Pearl Sea Resort wooden deck

It's a bit early but I have to mention this. This is one of the most popular festivals at the Kashimae Pier. About 72,000 people visited the festival last year over the two weeks. You don't have to bring anything. You can get freshly picked oysters for Y600 per kilo. There are 400 small BBQ grills. Gloves, charcoals, and Oyster opening knives are available for reasonable price. There are other sea products for sale there as well.

The 14th Nagasaki Lantern Festival

Sunday, 18 February through Sunday, 4 March

Nagasaki China Town and Arcade

I love the Lantern Festival. Nagasaki China Town and Arcade are beautifully lit up with very colorful lanterns. Steamed pork buns, pork burgers, yakitori, and all kinds of

Japanese festival food are available. Since all the parking lots are filled up very quickly, using public transportation or taking the MWR tours are easier to get there. I may be your tour guide. Let me guide you to the fun events.

Ishidake Zoological and Botanical Garden Events

The admission is Y400 (adult) and Y100 (child). The phone number there is 0956-28-0011. Tuition for the following classes is free unless it's said specifically. You only pay the zoo admission.

Zoo Back Yard Tours

Saturday, 10 February

1100-1145

Max # of students: 20 (Either call at 0956-28-0011 or fax at 0956-28-5099 to sign up.)

Take a peek at the "bedrooms" of the lions and the elephant. What? Just animal's nests? Come on. Let's get people motivated to visit there. Please bring your camera.

Valentine's Zoo Campaign

Thursday, 1 through Wednesday, 14 February

1000-1700

The panels of animal couples will be shown. The couples, or lovers, visiting the zoo during the period can get something nice from the zoo for free. If you are having a date, choose the zoo to visit.

Huis Ten Bosch Events

Admission: Y3,200 (adult), Y2,000 (middle and high school student), Y1000 (4-primary school student)

Chinese Acrobat Show

Until Sunday, 25 February

1130, 1420, 1730

Utrecht Plaza

The popular Chinese Acrobat Team comes back to HTB again. I have seen them several times, and they're great. Don't miss it.

Baby Crying Sumo

Saturday, 3 February

Saikyoji in Hirado Island

This is a very unique ritual rite in Japan. According to old legend on Hirado Island, the tradition started when a baby cried and drove away the demons on Bean Throwing Festival Day (February the 3rd). Since then, at the Saikyoji Temple, they have sumo matches of babies. The baby that starts crying faster than the opponent wins the match. It's a very noisy and cute tradition. MWR Tour office has the map how to get there.

FFSC Annual "Mamemaki (Bean Throwing Festival)" Observation Walking Trip

Saturday, 3 February

1800-2000

Meet at FFSC and visit Miyajidake Shrine

Let's observe the local "Parting the Season" by throwing parch-dried soy beans into the air. It's a FFSC tour. No fee is required. Free cups of bean soup are distributed. I'm planning to visit a local restaurant later. Let's do the dinner hunting together.

Speaking of the Bean Throwing Festival, they can be observed at several places in Sasebo. I'm pretty sure the Hachiman shrine in Hachiman-cho and Fukuishi Kan-non temple in Fukuishi-cho are having the festival. Please check the nearby shrine or temple.

Kurokami-san Temple Bean Throwing Festival

Saturday, 3 February

1130, 1530, and 1930

Kurokami-san Temple in Tono-cho

Since the festival at the temple has been very popular, the bean throwing is held three times this year. The 'refreshing the spirit' ceremony is worth observing. There isn't adequate parking there, so it's recommended to leave your cars at Nimitz Park and walk there. It's not far from the arcade. Walk through the arcade to the end (train station side) cross Route 35 and follow the lines of people. It's on the hill. You can get there in 10 minutes from Nimitz Park. I'm going to attend the event at 1530. If you'd like to come with me, please let me know it. I'll walk with you. Bring your camera!

Susa Shrine Bean Throwing Festival

Saturday, 3 February

1200 and 1700

Susa Shrine in Susa machi next to Gion-cho

Susa Shrine is one of the oldest shrines in Sasebo. It's close to my apartment. I've attended it before and I caught a nugget of mochi as well as beans. It's held on Saturday this year. I can visit some of the festivals in town before I go to the FFSC walking trip. Shirley, you live even closer to the shrine. Take a visit!

Experience the Science!

Sunday, 4 February

1000-1500

Shimanose Art Center

Admission: Free

Sasebo Children's Culture Center is sponsoring hands-on practices at science experiments. The robots that were built by the students of Sasebo Technical College are also exhibited. There are some workshops that kids can participate in. Bring your kids, I'm pretty sure they will love it.

Umegae Sake Factory Open Barrel Festival

Saturday, 10 and Sunday, 11 February

Umegae Sake Factory in Joma-cho

Mr. and Mrs. Brown, it comes back again this year! It's a season of newly finished rice wine. Umegae sake factory is holding its annual open barrel festival in February. Don't miss it. It's not only sake tasting but tea ceremony, taiko drum demonstration, Yosakoi dances, and much more. FFSC has a map how to get there. Please stop by and pick it up. I'll announce it in details when I figure it out.

The 3rd Sakai no Megumi (Western Ocean's Blessing) Sasebo Fish Market Festival

Sunday, 18 February

0800-1200

Sasebo Fish Market in Ainoura-cho

Arkas Sasebo

Contribution: Y500

To commemorate of Kyuden's (Kyushu Electric Company) 100th anniversary, Kyuden hosts a classic music concert. Classic music fun, don't miss this chance. You can contribute Y500 at local convenience stores to support the concert. They don't call it "ticket" but "receipt" of your contribution. Please bring your receipt to the concert.

The Night Party for Music Lovers

Saturday, 3 March

2100-

Dazzle Puzzle in Miura-cho (close to the Sasebo Train Station)

Y2,000 (advance ticket), Y2,500 (regular ticket)

The "Dazzle Puzzle" is a newly opened concert spot. Rock and Soul Music will be played. Please contact Takaya at 080-5209-5954 for tickets.

Sasebo Woodstock at the Mt. Eboshi

Monday, 30 April (Japanese Holiday)

1100-2000

Mt. Eboshi Sports-no-Sato (Sports Village)

Admission: Y1,000

All kind of musicians get together and play music for 9 hours. The committee is looking for musicians to join the Woodstock Concert in Sasebo. Thanks to Mrs. Payne, I now know what "Woodstock" is. She was kind enough to bring me the information last week. If you'd like to participate in it, contact Mr. Sasaki at 0956-24-5726.